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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 10, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 5 totaled an estimated 18.0 billion ton-miles, 1.3 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 40 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 680.1 billion ton-miles, down 5.3 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended October 5 totaled 393,021, down 1.1 percent from last year, and 0.3 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 8.9 percent in the East, but down 2.3 percent in the South and 6.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased, with metallic ores (40.6 percent) and grain (22.1 percent) showing large declines. Coal loadings were up by 9,433 cars (8.7 percent) and motor vehicles and equipment registered a gain of 2,793 cars (13.8 percent). Eleven of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended September 28 totaled 95,849 trailers and/or containers, 2.8 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 39 weeks of the year was 3,355,216 trailers and/or containers, down 1.9 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/05/85:

	Loadings in Week ended October 5, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	21,090	D	5,997	22.1	I	862	4.3
Other farm products	3,691	D	43	1.2	I	244	7.1
Metallic ores	10,745	D	7,349	40.6	D	1,910	15.1
Coal	117,952	I	9,433	8.7	D	357	0.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,601	D	251	1.8	D	53	0.4
Nonmetallic minerals	12,764	I	512	4.2	I	624	5.1
Grain mill products	10,936	I	451	4.3	I	273	2.6
Food and kindred products	11,280	I	87	0.8	D	416	3.6
Primary forest products	10,596	D	3,350	24.0	D	402	3.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,863	D	143	2.0	D	747	9.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,096	D	1,010	6.7	I	93	0.7
Chemicals and allied products	24,909	I	543	2.2	D	12	0.0
Petroleum products	4,703	D	57	1.2	D	147	3.0
Stone, clay and glass products	10,514	D	1,236	10.5	D	464	4.2
Coke	4,732	D	315	6.2	I	418	9.7
Metals and products	8,863	I	391	4.6	I	30	0.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,026	I	2,793	13.8	I	425	1.9
Waste and scrap materials	9,007	I	103	1.2	D	244	2.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,048	D	948	11.9	I	146	2.1
All other carloads	66,444	I	2,135	3.3	I	303	0.5
LCL traffic	161	D	36	18.3	I	7	4.5
Total Cars Loaded	393,021	D	4,287	1.1	D	1,327	0.3
Corresponding week of 1984	397,308						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (40 weeks)	14,974,779	15,914,492	D 5.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
39 Weeks ended September 28	662.1	700.1	D 5.4
Week ended October 5	18.0	18.2	D 1.3
40 weeks cumulative	680.1	718.1 (rev.)	D 5.3

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